BARBITURATES

“The barbiturate addict presents a shocking spectacle. He cannot coordinate, he staggers, falls off bar stools, goes to sleep in the middle of sentences, food drops out of his mouth. He is confused, quarrelsome and stupid.”

-- William Burroughs

BARBITURATES CONTENT

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WHAT ARE BARBITURATES?

- Barbiturates are prescription sedatives or tranquilizers.
- Barbiturates are multi-colored pills and tablets and are classified as Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants that cause drowsiness.
- Barbiturates are more commonly

STREET NAMES

Barbiturates are identified on the street by the color of the pill and can be called:

- ***Barbs***
- ***Downers***
- ***Sleepers***
- ***Stumblers***
- ***Rainbows***
- ***Blue Heavens***
- ***Yellow Jackets***
- ***Red Devils***
- ***Tootsies***
- ***Red Dolls***

HISTORY of BARBITURATES

- *1863 - Barbiturates were developed by Adolph von Bayer, famous for developing aspirin, and heroin.*
- *1903 – Barbiturates were first used in medical practices. Barbital (barbitone), was used as a sedative for the chronically nervous.*

HISTORY of BARBITURATES (cont)

Since 1903:

- ***Over 2,000 barbiturates have been manufactured using Bayer's original formula.***
- ***So widely used at first that they were nicknamed "wonder drugs".***
- ***Use has been drastically reduced due to:***
  - ***The introduction of sedative drugs prescribed to reduce anxiety such as Valium and Xanax.***
  - ***The dangerous side effects that are associated with barbiturate use.***

HOW ARE THEY TAKEN?

Barbiturates can be ingested in a variety of ways:

1. ***Orally – In a pill or liquid form.***
2. ***Intravenously – Injected with the use of a hypodermic needle:***
   - ***Injected into the bloodstream or muscle (MAINLINING)***
   - ***Injected under the skin (SKIN POPPING)***
3. ***Inserted into the body via suppository.***

WHY ARE THEY USED?

- *Barbiturates are most often consumed to get "high".*
- *Barbiturates are used by drug users to treat the unpleasant effects of other drugs such as:*
  - *Cocaine*
  - *Methamphetamine*
  - *Ecstasy*
- *Barbiturates are prescribed to treat:*
  - *Anxiety*
  - *Depression*
  - *Epilepsy*
  - *Insomnia*
  - *Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Withdrawal*

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

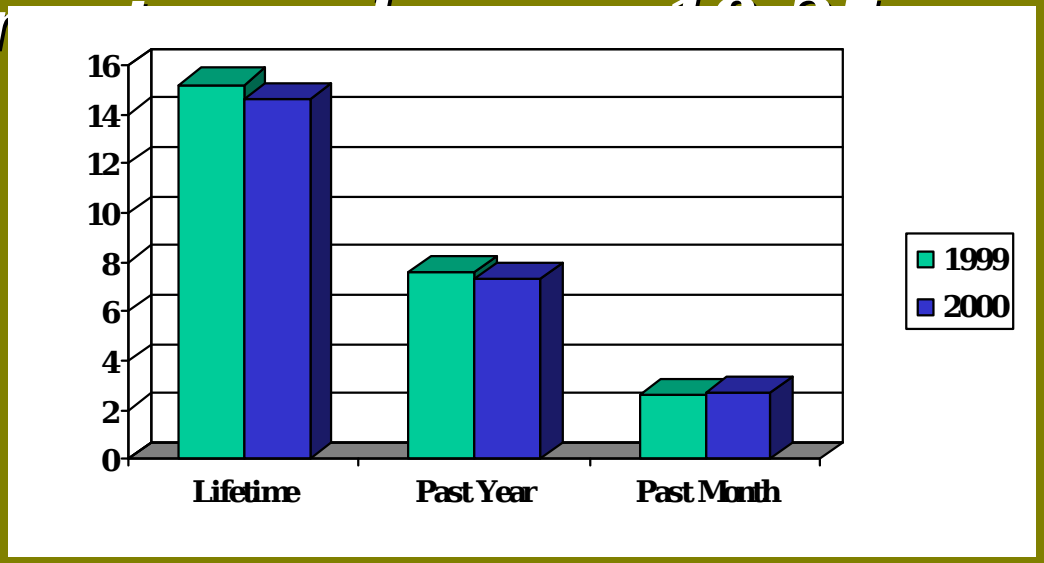
- Sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Slurred Speech
- Impaired Memory
- Impaired Judgment
- Vertigo
- Impotence
- Lack of Motivation
- Reduced Sex Drive
- Irregular Menstruation
- Breathing Disorders
- Decreased Blood

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Mild Euphoria
- Disinhibition
- Anxiety Relief
- Sleepiness
- Memory Impairment
- Loss of Coordination
- Increased Irritability
- Severe Paranoia
- Suicidal Thoughts

BARBITURATE USE IN THE UNITED STATES

Barbiturate use in the United States was stable between 1999 and 2000 amon



Percentage of People Age 18-25 Reporting Barbiturate Use, 1999-2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

BARBITURATE TESTING IN THE ARMY

- Barbiturates can be detected in urine up to 2-3 days after ingestion.
- The Army tests the following barbiturates on a rotational schedule:
  - Butabital
  - Phenobarbital
  - Secobarbitol

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- http://www.cananews.com/undcp/drugs6.htm
- http://www.drugfreenc.org/html/barbituates.html
- http://www.health.org
- http://espn.go.com/special/s/drugsandsports/barbs.html
- http://www.addictions.org/downers.htm
- http://www.drugfreeworkplace.com/drugsofabuse/

UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

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